**IN THE CLAIMS**:

*Kindly rewrite Claims 1-9 and add Claim 10 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:*

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing an alcohol comprising

(A) culturing ~~a recombinant of a microorganism that does not inherently utilize an alkane, and an alcohol which is generated by oxidation of an alkane, whereby said recombinant has acquired an ability to convert the alkane into the alcohol due to transformation with a DNA encoding a methane oxygenase~~ *Escherichia coli* at a temperature between 20 and 30°C, wherein said *Escherichia coli* has been transformed with a DNA comprising the Component A, B, and C genes of soluble-type MMO, and

(B) ~~allowing the obtained culture, cells isolated from the culture, or processed product of the said cells to exist with the~~contacting the Escherichia coli or a processed product thereof with an alkane ~~to produce the alcohol~~.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 1, wherein said DNA ~~encoding the methane oxygenase is a soluble-type methane oxygenase gene of~~is isolated from *Methylococcus capsulatus*.

5-7. (Canceled).

8. (previously presented) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 1, wherein said alkane comprises an alkane having between 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and said alcohol comprises an alcohol which is generated by oxidation of the alkane.

9. (previously presented) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 8, wherein said alkane is methane, and said alcohol is methanol.

10. (new) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 4,

wherein said DNA is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, and

(b) a DNA which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 under stringent conditions comprising washing with 0.1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 60°C.